Issue 37. The quick Brown Fox had a day off

Studs Up

The Oz Fans' Perspective

February
1999
36 Pages
83 1/3 cents
Per Page
Pure Value

Is Bright Roy The Right Boy?

+

"Roos Re-Routed Again

+

The Inaugural Hall of Fame

+

How to find a Vic Premier League Ground

+

All the usual Rubbishings.....

Studs Up - P O Box 53, Oakleigh South 3167....
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Disclaimer:

This is a FANZINE, and should be viewed accordingly!!
The opinions expressed in these bits of paper have been developed through years of watching, reading, playing , thinking, sleeping and generally living soccer since Oz last qualified for the World Cup finals. Therefore, no offense or offence is intended and none should be taken. Read, digest, and get in touch.

Studs Up is-
Editor:
Kevin Christopher
Sub-editors:
Harry Georgiadis
Mr McPhee
Contributors:
Anthony Ferguson
Greg Stock
Green Rover
Searlas Mullin
Paul Gellard
Andre Kruger
Nick Guoth
Chris Kunz

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Is Bright Roy the Right Boy?

When news filtered through that Roy Hodgson was to visit Sydney for the purpose of speaking at the Fourth World Congress of Science and Football, the rumour mill went into overdrive. Here, if you would have the media believe it, was Australia's next national soccer coach. It was simply a matter of asking him if he wanted the job. And the rumour mill almost exploded when Soccer Australia's National Coaching and Development Manager Jim Selby invited Roy to conduct a few coaching clinics at Marconi Stadium.

The man certainly has the credentials to be the next Socceroo coach, or has he? Swedish league titles with Halmstads in the 1970s and Malmo in the 1980s shouldn't be regarded as a pre-requisite, neither should guiding a mega-club (Inter Milan) to a UEFA Cup final. A spell with Blackburn was also relatively successful, but it is in the international arena that Hodgson's deeds must be judged. After all, he is supposedly the next *Socceroos* coach.

His efforts in guiding Switzerland to the 1994 World Cup finals should not be underestimated, particularly as the Swiss were the top scorers in a qualifying group which included Italy, Portugal and Scotland. That in itself was enough to rid the Swiss team of their inferiority complex, and reaching the second phase at USA '94 ensured football in Switzerland regained the respect of the mainstream population, who had become disillusioned with the sport after failing to qualify for the WC finals for 28 years..... Sound familiar?

Hodgson took advantage of the fact that Switzerland had their best ever crop of players, and successfully guided them through the 1996 European Championship qualifiers before going part-time after accepting the job at Inter. Naturally that arrangement didn't last long and Artur Jorge took over the Swiss for the 1996 Euro finals.

His achievements with Switzerland reveal the sort of task faced by Australia and there are probably sufficient similarities between Switzerland and Australia to justify interviewing the man. Yet one can't help but feel Hodgson could offer little more to the Socceroos than Terry Venables did. That is, a wealth of European experience which will be totally useless given that we will be pitting our talents against either South American or Asian opposition.

Okay, his knowledge of the odd South American will be enhanced by his time in Serie A, but by the time the next WC qualifiers come around that knowledge will be four years old.

Meanwhile, the clock continues to tick. We are now less than four months from the FIFA XI match at Homebush. It would be nice to think we can appoint a coach for that match as soon as possible, even if the financial situation demands offering a contract of just three months. To appoint a coach just a few weeks before a match which will be beamed around the world is too daunting a task to contemplate.

Or are we just waiting to see who wants to work for peanuts in exchange for becoming the focus of attention for one night?

Can we have an announcement, please!!

The extraordinary interest in entering a side in the national competition doesn't exactly extend outside it, however. The writer, for one, can see the advantage of, say, forming a private club, playing out of Olympic Park for one season in the Victorian Premier League, constructing the basis of a team before jumping in at the deep end. And most importantly, winning a significant amount of matches, which in turn creates interest and so on.

But that way of thinking just isn't needed in the 1990s in Australia. The fact remains that our traditional clubs, administratively speaking, remain so bereft of talent and imagination that reasonably intelligent businessmen can form a mini-consortium and dominate the national league within a year or two.

Carlton proved it last year, Northern Spirit proved it this year, and Auckland could well prove it next year. The interest has reached fever pitch in Sydney with yet another consortium looking to play at Parramatta, but SocAus chairman Basil Scarsella has claimed that the head body will not be 'doing' any clubs at the end of this season, nor will the league be expanded beyond sixteen teams.

To end all speculation, the board should state quite openly as soon as possible what the make-up of the 1999/2000 season will be. That way we can all concentrate on what is likely to be the highest quality finals series in living memory.

(re-) Routed Again!!

By Harry Georgiadis

FIFA's announcement that the Socceroos path to the 2002 World Cup would be through South America was greeted with disbelief by Aussie fans still coming to terms with not qualifying for France '98. Soccer Australia's reaction was to put forward a proposal whereby the Socceroos would be included within the Conmebol qualifying process rather than play the fifth-placed South American side in a two-game play-off. It was certainly an idea from left-field, particularly from an organisation not renowned for its lateral thinking.

The benefits (financial) are obvious, but doubts persist over whether Soccer Australia has the organisational ability needed to co-ordinate such a mammoth campaign. The huge interest created by the matches against Argentina in 1993 and Iran in 1997 is evidence that the average Aussie sports fan will support significant World Cup games. What better then, so Soccer Australia's logic runs, than all ten Conmebol members in Australia in 2001. Who needs to qualify for the World Cup when the qualifiers will provide so much interest and money? And money really is at the crux of the matter. The MCG match was a welcome financial shot in the arm but SocAus is still on very shaky financial grounds. Cynics would suggest that SocAus has already conceded we won't make it to Korea/Japan in 2002 and sees their proposal as the best way of paying the bills.

The logistical problems of playing ten World Cup qualifiers in South America in 2001 (not forgetting Oceania's World Cup games) are obvious. Getting our Euroroos released for so many games, when their clubs are entitled to release them only seven times a year, will prove a nightmare. SocAus could find itself spending most of 2001 locked in constant conflict with European clubs over the availability of the Euroroos.

In the France '98 qualifiers South American sides (particularly Argentina) recalled their Europeans for the most important qualifiers and used home based players against weaker opponents. This is a luxury Australia could ill afford. Could a locally-based Socceroo team cope in Santiago or Lima? In addition, playing such a series is unlikely to do our qualification chances any good. Our best hope of qualifying for 2002 is to play a South American side in an unpredictable two legged series with an element of surprise, not in a long-drawn out campaign. Oceania has a creditable, but unsuccesful, record against South American opposition in recent years, with Israel and Australia losing by single-goal margins to Columbia and Argentina in 1989 and 1993.

There are also practical considerations. Does CONMEBOL want a side from Oceania in its already crowded qualifying series? Secondly, this is a proposal for Oceania to negotiate. Will Conmebol even discuss the issue with Soccer Australia unless it has the full backing of Oceania?

After being tossed from confederation to confederation during the last twenty years we are still unsure of our rightful place in the World Game. With the benefit of hindsight, it is becoming clearer that Oceania has become the biggest victim of FIFA's decision to allow co-hosting of the next World Cup. With only four Asian countries, including both hosts, competing in 2002, the AFC is unwilling to give Oceania the chance to claim one of 'their' places, hence our route through South America. Australia's dream of finding a consistent and fair path to the World Cup continues.....*Maybe it will be Africa's turn to put up with us in 2006!!!!!!*

In the long term.

The long awaited five year plan from Soccer Australia, entitled 'Soccer 21', makes interesting reading from an international viewpoint. While the first objective is to produce *"Highly competitive, commercially attractive national teams which consistently qualify for World Cup, Olympic and World Championship competitions..."*, the entire point seems to have been lost once we read implementation strategy 1.1 - *"development of cyclical five year plans for all national teams..."*

Um, shouldn't we be focussing on a four year plan for the Socceroos and Olyroos, and a two year plan for the under 20s and under 17s? The targets and performance indicators show an aim of a top twenty world ranking for the Socceroos by the year 2004. Realistically, this can only be achieved by qualifying for the 2002 WC finals, and then reaching the second round. Additionally, we would need to win the next Oceania Cup and probably reach the semi finals of the Confederations Cup, if it is still running...

The second key objective is to enhance our relationship with FIFA, Oceania and the AFC which could come sooner than we think if Australia does eventually have to qualify for the next World Cup via Asia.

Either way, the first key objective will be difficult to achieve without a considerable injection of corporate funds, and given our track record in attracting major sponsorships the simple matter of paying an enticing wage to a quality coach could well be beyond us... Which brings us to...

The immediate future.

And the delicate matter of whether we'll have a real coach by June 12, when the Socceroos will take on a FIFA (World) XI to officially open the already officially opened Homebush Olympic Stadium.

Just about every Euroroo and his dog will make themselves available for the match, so for once we shouldn't have any trouble getting our best team on the park. How ironic it will only be a friendly, but one suspects a few of our boys will relish the opportunity of being on the world stage so the intensity of the match is likely to be anything but friendly.

A bit like the ticket prices, really. A family pack of two adults and two children will cost $129 but some of the individual prices are a bloody joke. It will be interesting to see how many tickets are actually available for public sale and how many go on the various lists.

At the end of the day however, the abusive calls should go to Stadium Australia, not Soccer Australia.

Roll up, roll up....

It should be a brilliant weekend for soccer fans, weather permitting, with the International Soccer Expo being held at the Dome & Exhibition Halls from June 11-13. The very glossy brochure reveals some prohibitive prices for exhibition space, so expect to see the Nikes, Reeboks and Adidas' of this world gobbling up the lion's share of floorspace, which will thrill the loddies but it does present the problem of how to enthrall the adults.

There are certainly a number of big names on the guest list including Viaili, Weah and Ronaldo, although whether they make it to these shores is another matter entirely. There will also be workshops, seminars, competitions, celebrity matches plus other toumaments happening throughout the weekend. And naturally there will be loads of photograph/autograph sessions for the young and not so young.

AND while it's a bit early to get specific about details, Studs Up will definitely be organizing some form of get together for the hundred-plus SU subscribers that will be present in Sydney that weekend. If you've never traveled interstate to watch the Socceroos then June 1999 will be the perfect opportunity.

See ya there!

Australian Soccer's Hall of Fame

It didn't happen overnight, but it did happen……

It has been about fifteen months since the nomination kits were initially distributed but the wait was certainly worth it as forty-four inductees were honoured at the Inaugural Australian Soccer Hall of Fame ceremony on Sunday, February 28, 1999. The highlights were many and varied. Emotional speeches were the order of the day with many attendees reduced to tears more than once, but perhaps the most poignant moment was when Australia's oldest living Formenio, Jimmy Osborne, was presented with the first Socceroo shirt he can keep.

The good news is that the event is likely to be an annual one, with up to a dozen new inductees announced each year.

Award of Distinction

Ron Adair, Jim Armstrong, William Coolahan, Col Curran, Michael de Bruyckere, Jack Evans, William Henderson, Tom Jack, Graham Jennings, Alan Johns, Gary Marocchi, Sergio Melta, Gordon Nunn, Jeff Oliver, Frank Parsons, John Perin, Ray Richards, Col Sanders, George Smith, John Watkiss

Roll of Honour

Fred Barlow, Donald Campbell, Tom Grimson, Harry Croft, Keith Gilmour, Pam Gilbert, Tony Kovac, Brian LeFevre, Jack Logan, Peter Nicknlich, Zoran Matic, Frank McIver, Graham McMillan, Des Miles, Martin Royal, Ron Smith, William Thomas, Joe Vlasits, Sir William Walkley, Ron Wright

Medal of Excellence

(sort of like Silver Logies for ex players)

Charlie Yankos, John Nyskohus, Julie Dolan, Harry Williams, Manfred Schaefer, Jim McKay, Ray Baartz, Frank Loughran, Bob Lawrie, James McNabb, William Maunder

Roll of Honour

(spelt as Role of Honour on program) (Silver Logies fornon-players)

Laurie Schwab, Connie Selby (who is also a former player of course), Ian Brusasco, Frank Arok, Sam Papsavas, Eric Worthington, Les Scheinflug, Julius Re, Dr Brian Corrigan, Dieter Klose, Giacomo (Jim) Bayutti

Hall of Champions

(Gold Logies for ex players)

John Kosmina, Jimmy Rooney, Atti Abonyi, Peter Wilson, Johnny Warren, Ron Lord, Bob Bignell, Joe Marston, Reg Date, Alf Quill, James (Jody) Masters)

Hall of Honour

(Gold Logies for non players)

Elaine Watson OAM, Tony Boskovic, Rale Rasic, Sir Arthur George OA, Michael Weinstein AM, Theo Marmaris MBE, Vic Tyting MBE, Robert Telfer, Harry Dockerty, Arthur Gibbs, John Walter Fletcher

Honoured and awarded special presentations, but NOT inducted was the entire cast and crew from the 1974 Socceroos tour.

Special award (but again not inducted)….Mr James Osborne (91) our oldest living Socceroo.

Roo Round-up

So much news, so little space....

YOUNG SOCCEROOS

Les Scheinflug announced his final squad of eighteen and unlike previous selections this one contains a realy 'smoky' in the shape of Mark Byrnes, a product of the NSW Institute of Sport who obviously blew away the selectors with his second half against South Korea on the Thursday before the final squad was announced.

We are already in the process of putting together a WYC special for SU38 so if you can just hang in there a few weeks...

The squad:

No.	Name	Club	No.	Name	Club
1.	Anthony BREADEN	(Adelaide City)	10.	John MAISANO	(Westerlo, Belgium)
2.	Brett EMERTON	(Sydney Olympic)	11.	Mile STERJOVSKI	(Sydney United)
3.	Lindsay WILSON	(Canberra Cosmos)	12.	David TERMINELLO	(Adelaide City)
4.	Simon COLOSIMO	(Carlton)	13.	Michael CUNICO	(Northern Spirit)
5.	Eddy BOSNAR	(Northern Spirit)	14.	Daniele INVINCIBILE	(Marconi)
6.	Paul WEARNE	(Northern Spirit)	15.	Christian CARE	(Marconi)
7.	Jason CULINA	(Sydney Olympic)	16.	Joel GRIFFITHS	(Sydney United)
8.	Vincenzo GRELLA	(Empoli, Italy)	17.	Mark BYRNES	(NSW Academy)
9.	Marco BRESCIANO	(Carlton)	18.	Michael TURNBULL	(AIS)

On Standby are the following players:

NAME	CLUB	NAME	CLUB
Adriano CUZZUPE	South Melbourne	Paul REID	Wollongong Wolves
Travis DODD	Adelaide City	Nick SAHLJAK	Adelaide City
Ivan ERGIC	AIS	Michael SANTALAB	Sydney United
Michael FERRANTE	West Ham (UK)	Tynan SCOPE	Coventry City (UK)
Mario JOHN	Melbourne Knights	Brad SWANCOTT	Newcastle
Matthew LANGDON	Northern Spirit	Daniel WATKINS	Northern Spirit

The Squad departs Sydney next Wednesday 10th March for Europe, with training camps and games set down for Holland and Spain, before arriving in Nigeria to take on the World!

Under-20 World Youth Cup draw

Grp A: Lagos: Nigeria, Costa Rica, Germany, Paraguay.
Grp B: Kaduna: Ghana, Croatia, Argentina, Kazakhstan.
Grp C: Ibadan: **Australia, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Ireland**
Grp D: Enugu: Uruguay, Mali, Korea, Portugal.
Grp E: Kano and Bauchi: Cameroon, Japan, England, United States.
Grp F: Port Harcourt and Calabar: Zambia, Honduras, Spain, Brazil.

OLYROOS

The promised Olyroos analysis has also had to go on the backburner for a while, but there's only so many pages we can afford to put out. But we WILL get around to explaining that series of VERY ordinary results in a coming issue.

The good news for future Olyroos is that FIFA are contemplating a bi-annual under-23 World Cup, with the Sydney 2000 event likely to be the last football tournament at the Olympic Games. Perhaps we'll now see how seriously the IOC need football....

MATILDAS

National coach Greg Brown was reasonably happy with the draw his Matildas received for the upcoming World Cup, although if performances during the Australia Cup are any indication then we have a bit of trouble understanding his enthusiasm. China and Scandinavia have been hotspots for the womens game in the 1990 so at first glance a trip to the quarter finals would appear unlikely. And that analysis of the Matildas efforts in the Australia Cup WILL come under closer scrutiny in a future issue.

Women's World Cup draw/schedule

Grp A – USA, South Korea, Nigeria, Denmark
Grp B – Germany, Brazil, Mexico, Italy
Grp C – Canada, Japan, Russia, Norway
Grp D – China, AUSTRALIA, Ghana, Sweden.

Matildas Match-ups --- First Round

Sunday, June 20	Australia vs. Ghana	Foxboro, Mass., 4 p.m.
Wednesday, June 23	Australia vs. Sweden	Washington, D.C., 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, June 26	China vs. Australia	East Rutherford, N.J. 2:30 p.m.

STOP PRESS

New Fanzine Just to Hand

*"All I want is.....**Three Points And A Hangover**".....*

Issue 1 has hit the SU desk to prove that our nearest northern neighbours are not to be out-done by the "True Blue" competition!!!!

Tancred Fergus and crew (including 'the Appointed One') have produced a quality, 24 page 'zine which, if a team sheet was provided, would put the Spirit Match-day Programme to shame.(see page 16...)

Incuded are 4 BIG interviews and regular features like ....Pub of the Month (!!!!!).....Singing with Julian (??????)...and "Are you Les Murray in Disguise" (!?!?!?!).

Subscriptions are available at $3:00 per ish by mail from:

Three Points
P O Box 367 Alexandria 2015
Cheques should be made payable to Tancred
Or e-mail to:- threepoints@bigfoot.com

GET THE BOOK OUT!

Red card to Wollongong police for their provocative response to some alleged 'indecent language' amongst the Northern Spirit contingent at Brandon Park on February 28. An eyewitness reckons the word 'testicle' was mentioned, but before you could sing "*What's the colour of a two cent coin?*" (see below) there's thirty back-up police on site complete with batons and CS gas ready for a full-on assault. Naturally the tabloids, and some of the broadsheets, had a field day, but we'd rather wait for SocAus' report 'cos it's gonna make VERY interesting reading...

Meanwhile, down at Optus Oval, the (in)famous sombreroed trumpeter was ejected for singing a certain ditty questioning the hue of some redundant Aussie currency. After a quick word to the police from Carlton GM Lou Sticca the bespectacled bugler was re-admitted, but the message is clear. Any language considered remotely unsavoury will be clamped on.

But if there has been a directive, could the NSL please do the bare minimum and at least warn the fans?

Red card to Soccer Australia for failing to invite the wives of all the Hall of Fame recipients. While today's soccer widows whinge about their husbands spending excessive time away from the family, imagine the interruption to domestic life in decades past, when players went away for weeks at a time with little financial reward to show for it. For the legends not to be able to share their moment of glory with their life-long partners was a disgrace, and a definite red card offence.

and another **Yellow card** to SocAus over their handling (or lack of it!) of the 'Melbourne Knights trashing the Newcastle changerooms incident'. No, you haven't fallen into a coma, it really has been over TWO MONTHS since the 'incident' took place, yet SocAus are still to announce the results of their, er, investigation.

Yellow card to Sydney Olympic for the eyesore that holds the nets up at each end. Fellas, if you have to use gaffer tape to keep the nets attached to the frame, can you at least paint it white?

Yellow card to Sports Australia for their continually dodgy name spellings. The latest casualty was South Melbourne assistant coach Carl Halford, who ended up on our screens as Carl Holwell during the recent Greek derby at Belmore.

And finally, yet another **Yellow card** to the VSF after we heard about the following exchange which took place when a budding young journalist rang the office (just prior to the Premier League kick-off) to get the 1999 yearbook.

VSF: "Sorry, not available 'til March, we're waiting for the clubs to send in information."
byj: "And I'd like to confirm you'll be updating the results hotline after the first round of games?"
VSF: "Yes, we will update it at 6.30pm on Sunday night"

Yep, you guessed it. At 8:30 p.m. the hotline was still carrying on with last year's GF.

The Natives Are Restless

The push for a second NSL franchise in Perth

from Searlais Mullin

Australia is currently going through a boom of sorts - a boom of franchises bidding for entry to the NSL. The past three seasons have seen four new-look "non-ethnic" clubs enter the competition. Perth Glory and Northern Spirit have enjoyed stunning successes in profile and attendances, whilst Carlton continue to produce the goods on the park. The less said about Collingberg the better. Next season will see the controversial arrival of yet another new franchise, the Auckland Kings. In the meantime even more franchises of the new mould are being put together - the much publicised Parramatta merger in Sydney, the East Melbourne Rangers and shady talk of an all-Adelaide club to replace City and the Sharks.

A new franchise that has perhaps attracted less publicity than the others is that being put together by Soccer West Coast. It was inevitable that talk of a second Perth NSL club would arise. Other codes, namely basketball and Aussie Rules, have experienced similar speculation when the Perth Wildcats and West Coast Eagles were at their peak of success and popularity. In the latter case a new club, Fremantle Dockers, became a reality. Perth Glory's phenomenal success in the NSL was sure to see others jumping on the bandwagon.

However, there is one key obstacle to a second Perth club. On their entry into the NSL in 1996 Glory were given an exclusive franchise for Perth. No other Perth club could enter the competition for the first five years, ensuring that Glory could lay down foundations and establish themselves in the league without the insecurity of a local competitor.

Here it gets complicated. Apparently Glory's entry into the NSL, and it's exclusive franchise, are to be found only in the minutes of a SocAus meeting. Nowhere else is there confirmation of either. Given that Glory have been far more successful than anyone could have predicted and already seem to have a secure future, a challenge to the ruling could occur. Still, written word is written word and it would be very difficult for a second Perth franchise to enter the NSL before the five year exemption period elapses.

Despite the above provision above it was little over a year before talk of a second Perth club began. In mid 1997, ambitious WA Premier League club Fremantle City stated their determination to enter a team into the NSL as soon as Glory's exclusivity came to an end. Freo obviously had the Dockers in mind and made strong efforts to forge a relationship with the AFL club. Even the current coach, Stuart Kamasz, was nominated as the man who would coach Freo in the NSL. But a disappointing 1998 campaign in the local league has seen the dream slip away. In any case Freo would have had the ethnic bogey hanging over them - they were originally known as Benfica United and still wear the same strip as the Portuguese national team.

A much larger and more serious bid has emerged in the last six months. A new president has taken over the reins at Soccer West Coast - local businessman David Schrandt. Almost immediately SWC announced their intention to put together a second Perth franchise.

On the surface it seems ridiculous. SWC are notoriously unstable. Schrandt is the fifth president in two years. Internecine warfare between the (technically speaking) all-encompassing Soccer Administration of WA and the local junior and amateur associations is rife. There is even a state government task force currently looking to restructure local soccer, and SWC is the main target (see "Plenty of Black, Not Much Gold", SU 34).

The potential difficulties SWC faces in putting together a new franchise are sizeable. Perth is remote from the rest of the country and overheads such as travel and accommodation are much greater than for a Sydney or Adelaide club. Then there is the problem of financing what will have to be a squad and coaching staff of full professionals - to succeed the new club must be competitive on the field.

Quite simply it will be hugely expensive and a nightmare to organise. Perth Glory may have had it easier, in their debut season an average attendance of 6000 was necessary to break even, and that was with a team and coach of part-timers of whom not much was expected. The benchmark is much higher now, especially when clubs such as Northern Spirit, South Melbourne, Carlton and Sydney Olympic are wealthier than anyone was in 1996.

So why is the SWC, with all the odds stacked against it, determined to put together a franchise? The reason was summed up on radio by SWC's General Manager Paul Tombides: "A team for Perth run by soccer, not by private business."

The nub of the problem is that Perth Glory's two owners, Nick Tana and Paul Afkos, and General Manager Roger Lelori, have managed to antagonise the local soccer community. When Glory was founded it was envisaged that the club would be a representative team for Western Australia. Tana himself was fond of saying that Glory would provide an outlet for WA's deep well of talent. Expectations were that the local league and local clubs, long stagnated, would benefit from having a "big brother" in the national competition.

Of the original Glory squad of fifteen, all but two were either recruited locally or were Western Australians returning to the fold. All four players signed during the 1996/97 campaign were Western Australians. It was a Perth team.

Three years later Glory have become the wealthiest club in the league and are stumbling towards their first ever top six finish. However, the number of Western Australians on Glory's books has proportionately declined. Only half of the current twenty-four man squad are locals. More pertinently only three players were recruited from the local league for the 1998/99 season, and one of them is only on loan.

The dwindling number of local players entering Glory's ranks is mostly due to the behaviour of the club in the transfer market. Local clubs are being offered a pittance for their best players, and naturally are reluctant to let them go. A perfect example is that of the Western Knights. Glory's current head coach, Bernd Stange, wanted to sign two Knights' players, Trim Morgan and Craig Deans. The Knights were offered $1000 apiece for them. In the case of Morgan, the Knights originally demanded $5000 but were willing to stoop to $2500, but still no deal. Morgan, the top scorer in the 1997 WA Premier League, is not someone the Knights can replace for a measly grand. Glory did not sign Morgan but Stange got his way with Deans. However, Deans is only on loan and the Knights will get nothing for his stint in the NSL. In the meantime Glory is paying some of its players over $100 000 a year while the lowest paid full-timer at Glory earns over $40 000. None of this money is finding its way into the local soccer community.

Scarcely any wonder then that SWC are determined to put together an NSL club of local players that pays local clubs acceptable transfer fees.

But surely a second club is not the answer to what is basically a problem of diplomacy. The solution could be much more feasible and far more sensible. One disadvantage Glory suffers in the NSL is its lack of a reserve or youth team. The economics of distance preclude Glory's ability to enter such teams into already existing leagues in the eastern states. And despite negotiations with SWC, such a league does not yet exist in WA. All local football, with the exception of the pre-season Night Series, takes place in winter with scarcely any overlap with the NSL season. If a local summer league could be organised, Glory could field reserve and youth teams and thus sign several more local players. In turn the local league would benefit from a higher level of competition and greater publicity.

It is a simple answer, but in execution it may prove difficult. Glory must become more considerate of the local clubs. It may be "good business" to sign players for nothing or only to loan them, but it is also selfish and ultimately destructive. Somehow the rift must be bridged or good money will be thrown after bad in SWC's doomed pursuit of a second Perth franchise. The natives are restless and it will take more than beads and coloured stones to placate them.

Fifa's Glass House

From Harry Georgiadis

The International Olympic Committee's favours-for-votes scandal exposed an out of control bidding process corrupted beyond repair by IOC delegates travelling the world receiving gifts and kick-backs for themselves and their families. Meanwhile at Planet Football headquarters, Sepp Blatter sat back in his comfy chair and announced smugly that the IOC's corruption scandal could never happen to the World Cup because the Executive Committee (Exco) members have "all taken a sort of ethical oath". Less than a week later and in the middle of a costly and bitter campaign for the 2006 World Cup, Fifa announced new guidelines on gifts (just in case some Exco members didn't take a sort of ethical oath) urging the eight bidders to show restraint. A five page document (allegedly drafted in May) advises that bidding associations "are strongly discouraged from giving Fifa members (as well as their relatives) any gifts, favours or direct or indirect benefits other than souvenirs or small presents to a total value which should not exceed $100". The new guidelines haven't banned overseas visits (although Fifa prefers they are tied in with a match or tournament and insists Zurich are advised of any visit in advance). Sepp Blatter's comments and the new guidelines are a staggering statement of naivety and don't reflect current bidding realities. The problem of Fifa's bidding process has never been personal corruption but back-room political deals. Blatter should instead be looking at reforming the entire process.

The World Cup bidding process isn't as open to corruption as the Olympics but there are worrying similarities. World Cup hosts are decided by the 24 members of Fifa's Executive Committee in an independent and secret ballot after all bids have been evaluated by Fifa's various technical committees. The Exco members who will decide the 2006 World Cup hosts are:

Europe (8)	Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Scotland, Spain, Italy, Malta and Turkey
Africa (4)	Mali, Cameroon, Botswana and Tunisia.
Asia (4)	Thailand, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and South Korea.
South America (3)	Brazil, Argentina and Chile
Concacaf (3)	USA, Costa Rica and Trinidad & Tobago
Oceania (1)	New Zealand
Fifa President (1)	Sepp Blatter

World Cup history is littered with curious and dubious decisions that haven't always reflected the most technically-advanced bid but the one prepared to shake the most palms and form the strongest alliances in world football. In their excellent book *'Fifa and the contest for World Football'* co-authors John Sugden and Alan Tomlinson point out that the bidding process for the World Cup has undergone three distinct phases. Until the 1960's, Fifa's lack of financial strength ensured it was in no position to run a bidding process at all, allocating the World Cup on pragmatic grounds to any country willing to foot the bill. From 1962, national associations began putting forward tentative submissions and low-profile bids. Since 1986, and coinciding with the World Cup becoming a global event, bidding has become fiercer with obscene amounts of money being allocated to ever more costly campaigns.

The inaugural World Cup was allocated to Uruguay after the South Americans offered to pay the travel and accommodation expenses of all the competitors. Europeans, who made up the bulk of Fifa membership, were concerned over the lengthy trip and criticised the decision but Uruguay, ahead of their rivals on and off the field, had been lobbying Fifa President Jules Rimet since 1925 and also offered to build a new stadium. At the 1932 Fifa Congress, Italy won the right, after eight meetings, to host the second World Cup. Their decision to pay for the cost of the tournament was enough to sway Fifa who were content to allow Italy to politicise the event in exchange for Mussolini's promise to run a smoothly run tournament.

In 1938, Fifa reneged on a gentleman's agreement (in an age when gentleman's agreements meant something) to alternate the World Cup between Europe and South America by awarding the tournament to France. A furious Argentina (favourites to host the event) stormed out of the Fifa Congress and of the World Cup itself until 1958. In 1962, the hosting of the World Cup was contested between drought-stricken, economically-impoverished Chile and a better credentialled Argentina.

Despite the obvious discrepancy of the bids, Chile won the right to host the event by 32 votes to ten. The 1962 event was the last to be decided by a broad body of Fifa. England's victory over West Germany and Spain to host the 1966 event was the first to be subjected to a proper bidding process. Mexico was controversially awarded the 1970 event at the 1964 Fifa Congress in Tokyo. Mexico's severe heat and altitude made it an unpopular venue but the voting saw unprecedented and fierce lobbying with one delegate having his fare paid by a bidding nation. Argentina was again incensed to miss out (you may have by now picked up on a recurring theme of very irate Argentinians losing World Cup bids).

Fifa President Sir Stanley Rous, concerned by the fierceness of the bidding, decided on a policy where the World Cup hosts would be decided twelve years in advance. By the mid-1960's, West Germany (1974) and Argentina (1978) were confirmed as hosts, quickly followed by Spain (1982) and Colombia (1986). It was this last decision that unwittingly laid the foundations for one of the World Cup's darkest hours. Rous, and his 12-year location plan, were discarded at the 1974 Fifa Congress.

His successor Joao Havelange increased the number of finalists to 24 for the 1982 finals and this coupled with Colombia's economic crisis forced it to back out of hosting the 1986 event. Brazil, Mexico, Canada and the United States (backed by Warner Communications) hastily arranged bids. Mexico won the right to host its second Mundial but the link between Fifa Vice-President Guillermo Canedo and Mexican television station Televisa, where he was an executive, ensured that the decision was dubiously handled. The executive committee didn't even inspect the US venues.

In Stockholm, the Mexican bidding committee gave an eight-minute presentation and went to celebrate their victory. No vote was ever taken and rumours circulated that Henry Kissinger, who fronted the US bid, had threatened to sue Fifa over its undemocratic process.

Continued over

The 1986 campaign set a precedent. The World Cup has become a global event worth billions in TV rights, sponsorship, tourism and intangible rewards such as national pride. In contrast to the half-hearted campaigns of the 1960's (if you could even call them that) bidding has become more cut-throat and fiercer. Fifa has done little to discourage this mania, encouraging more bids and praising every candidature regardless of its merits. As Sugden and Tomlinson point out, the change in Fifa's power-structure over the last two decades towards the third world has resulted in the need for bids to be co-ordinated on a global basis escalating campaign costs. It has been estimated $100 million was spent by South Korea and Japan on their bids for the 2002 World Cup, a figure likely to be surpassed by the race for the 2006 World Cup. The French Football Federation allocated seven million francs lobbying the relevant Fifa personnel in their succesful bid to host the 1998 World Cup while French President Jacques Chirac awarded Havelange the Legion of Honour.The 2002 bid was the fiercest to date. Fifa Vice-President David Will who received gifts by the bucket-load remarked that "the only thing missing was the cash in the plain brown bag". Several Exco members complained to Fifa over the constant harassment, telephone calls, gifts and personal visits. One Exco member found a representative from a bidding country 'coincidentally' sitting next to him on a long flight. Japan sponsored and paid all the costs of a youth training course in Tunisia during the 1994 African Nations Cup finals where they took the chance to peddle their 2002 bid. And this of course doesn't mention the countless and never-ending presentations, receptions, conferences and trade fairs.

The 2006 World Cup has seen an unprecedented eight countries (England, Germany, South Africa, Brazil, Nigeria, Morocco, Ghana and Egypt) putting in a bid. Already the campaigning and lobbying has been intense and will continue to get more aggressive in the run-up to March 2000 when the successful candidate will be announced. German Football Federation Vice-President Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder has suggested that Africa's support for its 2006 bid will result in German (read European) support for an African bid for 2010, promising financial and technical support to this end. In England, Football Association Chairman Keith Wiseman and Chief Executive Graham Kelly were forced to resign after being implicated in a cash-for-votes scandal. It was alleged (although both have since been exonerated by a Fifa committee) that three million pounds was granted to Welsh football in return for their support for Wiseman's bid to replace Scotland's David Will as Britain's permanent Exco representative. Wiseman and Kelly had incorrectly perceived that Will wasn't promoting England's campaign.

Sepp Blatter's campaign guidelines are addressing the wrong issue. Its not personal corruption that needs to be addressed (although no bidding process can ever be fool-proof) but behind -closed – doors deals and alliances. Surely the whole point of any selection process is to discover and reward the bid with the best stadiums, communications, transport, accommodation and security. The current system is inefficient, wasting millions of dollars on campaigns that are decided as much by internal Fifa politics as technical criteria. In 1996 it was widely believed that Japan had superior facilities to South Korea but Uefa, determined to spite Havelange who had supported the Japanese bid, voted for South Korea and forced the embarrassing compromise that is World Cup 2002. It's hardly corrupt on the level of the IOC but its unacceptable that the hosting of the world's most important sports event is subject to the political schemes and whims of Fifa members. If Sepp Blatter wants to truly reform the system he should scrap it and replace it with a small group of experts in stadium design, ticketing, transport, communications and policing to decide the host without the need for costly campaigns, a decision that can then be ratified by Fifa's Executive Committee. The man who criticised the staging of the World Cup every four years as old-fashioned and not in tune with modern times should first deal with the old-fashioned way his organisation allocates its most prestigious event.

News From The Capital

From Nick 'Two wins!!' Guoth

Canberra's saviour Tom Sermanni came to the rescue of a dying team, one that has been ridiculed and called the 'worst NSL team in the history of the game'.

Arriving with the team having a 0-12 record, Tom's first chance to see the guys play was at home against South Melbourne. A 1-3 loss and things weren't too good. Then a five game run with only one defeat, a 0-1 loss at Adelaide City, and all was looking up. Draws at Gippsland and the Sharks were followed by wins at home against the EC form team Newcastle and the rather inconsistent Wollongong. Tom's record now stands at 2-2-2 and finally some dignity has returned to the Canberra Cosmos.

Unfortunately, the crowds haven't. The decision to hold games on Monday night has backfired. The last two games have produced attendances of 1,700 each, which is well below the league average. Even Gippsland is bringing in more fans. The kickoff time has been moved back 30 minutes to 7:30pm. I only hope that they look at the rest of the season and see what effect the date and time change had.

Mystifying the simplest of us all, the decision of changing the time has alienated the youth of Canberra, who will now return home by 9:30pm at the earliest, with the knowledge that school beckons the following day. What parent would allow this of their 10 year old, the ones we are dying to see at the ground each game? And what of the long distance supporter, those who travel from Cooma, Yass or Goulburn to name a few of the nearby towns? They are lucky to make it home by 10:30pm. How is this encouraging these people to come?

Back to the team, and the inclusion of more than just Tom has improved things in the Capital. Gordon Hunter who had a spell with the team last season, but wasn't in the plans of Rasic, came in, as have Ivo De Jesus and Gaby Gonzales, both returning from stints overseas and both with experience at Sydney EC teams. Then we have Nick Purdue who is on loan for the rest of the season from the Northern Spirit.

But the real gain for the team has been the return to form of one Vilson 'Wally' Knezevic. The two home wins have both been clean -sheets, a rarity in Cosmos history. Wally's play has improved so much that the defence has gained in confidence as well.

Still, it has been over three years since the last Cosmos away win, and without this, no coach can prove himself but there's still hope for Tommy.

On the local scene, it was sad to see that Canberra City had to pull out of the Premier League Division 1 owing to financial difficulties. City, for those who don't know were one of the founding teams of the National League way back in the 1970s.

They struggled last season to stay afloat and needed help from the public to see out the season, but this year they could see that without strong financial help they were unable to field a team in the ACT Premier League Division 1.

The withdrawal left the door open for last season's wooden spooners, University of Canberra, to return to the top flight. Along with Burns Club, it means that the competition for the Championship should be tight. The season itself does not commence until April, but the Federation Cup will be contested in March.

SWELTERING START TO SUPER

Green Rover reports on the

As expected the opening weekend of the NSW 'winter' season produced near record temperatures. Crowds sought shelter from the sun first and vantagepoints were of secondary concern at most centres.

A good southerly breeze arrived on Sunday to temper the conditions which the poor Under 18 and Under 21 players - and spectators - had to endure.

Saturday was a different story, though, with the Serbian Centre the focal point as locals Bonnyrigg White Eagles entertained their Macedonian-supported rivals Bankstown City.

There was a touch of sadness to proceedings as the previous evening while a function was taking place at the Serbian Centre clubrooms some youngsters were playing on the new training field which had been closed and locked, with the goal-posts lifted out of their sockets and laid on the ground.

This did not deter the young people who climbed the fence and began to play an impromptu game, during which they put the posts back in the slots. When one of them 'scored' he 'celebrated' by swinging on the crossbar.

The whole frame came crashing down, the boys took cover, but one poor 10 year old was looking the other way and bore the full brunt of the hefty apparatus and died instantly from a massive blow to the head.

His mother is a valued member of the bar staff at the club and it shook the Bonnyrigg officials, players and supporters who were attending the pre-season function overlooking the field. Green Rover offers his condolences to the family of the young child.

In this context, the loss, the next day, to Bankstown was not the end of the world, though many will say that the two events were unrelated. John Turner the Bonnyrigg coach, was in sombre mood before the game and so were his players, while his opposite number Sakib Lovic was brim full of confidence about his new team.

The 5-2 win to Bankstown raised eyebrows the next day from almost everyone who had thought, wrongly, that the unbeaten trial-game form of Bonnyrigg suggested a newly-assembled Bankstown had no chance against the Premiers on their own turf with, or without, a new coach.

The first weekend saw Blacktown beat Easts a side that had along with Ryde plundered most of their best players. The Demons enticed Jason Bennett out of proposed retirement and brought in Peter Sermanni and Matthew Lowe as well.

They won 2-0 and Bennett scored the second goal. Macarthur easily beat Central Coast at home 4-1 but Coast had a swag of problems in the game and during the days prior, with injuries.

LEAGUE SURPRISES NOBODY

NSWSL season kick-off.

Ryde may have signed Craig Sharpley, Dave Segreto and Les Bihari from Easts but it was former Easts coach Joe Watson, signed by Ryde's Sunday opponents Fairfield, which proved the most significant move of the summer. He helped Fairfield to their first ever win over Ryde in four years of trying and it was a former Ryde player, Matthew Borg, who was the main tormentor.

Bihari had a poor game and the absence of John Koch was very apparent in the Ryde's lack of reading of the game.

A bore draw at the best attended game of the round at Lambert Park between Leichhardt Tigers and Parramatta Eagles shed little light on whether either of these former NSL clubs would have a better season than 1998. The new strikers from each team failed to fire Keeper Jason Holmes was only needed once or twice to keep it that way.

Canterbury nearly got the shock of their life against District paupers Sutherland Sharks where the visitors, perhaps disturbed that the Wollman had called off his opening day trip to see them, gave of their best for colleague Peter Smith, and led the Berries 1-0 with 5 minutes of stoppage time already elapsed.

Despite protests that was long enough for Canterbury to squeeze a draw with an acute angled shot by substitute Robbie Jerkovic to cancel out the big strike by young Sutherland ace Craig Hobbs.

The First Division kicks off on March 14 and the Second Division on March 21. Newly promoted Dulwich Hill opened their trial season brightly with a 5-1 win over 2nd Division Hurstville ZSC. Newly relegated St George struggled to see off new 2nd Division club Sydney University 2-1, despite the presence of a number of 30-something stars brought in from neighbouring Hurstville City Minotaurs.

The 2nd Division club Hajduk Wanderers may have lost the promising David James to Leichhardt Tigers, but have recruited Tony Krslovic from Manly - Warringah as well as trialling top players Trent Worrall, last with Leichhardt, and Jim Boudaher last with Ryde. After missing promotion in a play off despite being unbeaten all season, the play-off apart, Hajduk are pretty fired up to make sure there are no mistakes this time around.

Arncliffe Scots trailled twice in early February with a 2-1 win over Sydney District and a 0-2 loss to 3rd Division Fraser Park, the upwardly mobile boys from the Portuguese quarter of town.

Fraser and their coach Tony Dunn have assembled a potent force with Zaya Jebriael, Ennio Morson, Jon Flack, Ante Zizic, Charlie Morales and many more quality players aiming to make it back to back promotions in 1999.

Next month, more on the lower division activity and a report on 'groundhopping for beginners - the anoraks strike back'

Interview with a Formeroo

This month *Greg Stock* speaks with Ken Vairy.

In the late 1940's and 50's the Granville Soccer Club was considered the envy of other Sydney teams in the way they managed to produce so many talented junior players. Bill and Andy Henderson, Ray Marshall, Frank and Alan Garside, and Eric Hulme are all names synonymous with representative football in the 1950's and all came from the soccer powerhouse of Granville. Another name on that long list of talented footballers was their inside left Ken Vairy.

Ken was one of six children, three of whom wore the famous Black and White playing strip of the Granville first grade side. Ken developed through the junior feeder club Kewpies and by his late teens had emerged as a member of the talented Granville Alliance team that won every second grade premiership from the Second World War to 1951. It was a natural progression that he would play first grade and by the early 50's he was firmly entrenched as the first choice inside left forward. Alongside dynamic centre forward Alan Garside and left winger Ray Marshall, the Granville club were the form side of the 1950's.

Representative honours soon followed where Ken was chosen to represent Granville District on three occasions as well as South and New South Wales. Ken's finest hour was when he was selected for the fifth and final test against the touring South African side in Newcastle in 1955. Alongside four of his Granville teammates Ken scored the only Australian goal in that match against a Springbok side renowned for its tough defence. Studs Up caught up with Ken on the south coast of New South Wales where he has moved away from the bright lights of Sydney to the tranquillity of the country. Now in retirement, Ken recounted a little of his career and of that famous test match all those years ago.

GS : How was it that you started in soccer?

KV : "My dad came from Newcastle in England and . My dad used to play, nothing of any great standard, playing all age in South Shield in Newcastle. He worked at Clyde Engineering in Granville and it was full of Poms and Scots that had come out in those days. I was kicking the ball with them as soon as I could walk. "I had five brothers all older than me, two brothers who played first division and the others played local all age."

GS : Were you also playing soccer at school?

KV : "We played every lunchtime at school. I started at Kewpies in about 1943. I played against Billy Henderson most times and had one year with him at Kewpies. Billy came from over the east side of Granville and they had a team over there they called Granville Waratahs and Billy played most of his football there. In those days if you lived on one side of Granville you played with one squad (Waratahs) and if you lived over the other side of the railway line you played with the other (Kewpies) because there was no transport. Plenty of times I walked for miles to play a game and then walked all the way home again. Kewpies home ground was in Blaxcell Street and they had their reunion about four years ago for seventy five years."

GS : How did the transformation from junior level at Kewpies to senior level at Granville take place?

KV : "There was an old fella by the name of Henry Norford and he used to ride a push-bike around and watch us. He'd go back to Granville and say such and such looks like he has got a bit of ability, lets say we ask him down for a trial. There was no contracts or offers of any money. You did it more or less for the glory. They'd take you down for a few trials and then say you've made it or you haven't. They didn't give you much incentive. They'd say "Come down and try out." and let you hang around for a while but they didn't say "You're going well would you like to stay with us." They would give you a few trial games and training runs and at one stage I thought I am not going to make it here so I didn't show up. Henry came up and said where have you been? I said they didn't give me any encouragement and I thought I wasn't wanted. He said your wanted alright I'll see back there next week. So that's how I started with Granville."

GS : You started in second grade?

KV : "We only had the two grades, first and alliance grade. It was a progression but when I luckily went Billy Henderson went (too), and in an unusual time for the team they were mostly non drinkers and no smokers, which was very strange in those days. We played most of 1948 in reserve grade and won that competition so the next year came around and some of us were lucky enough to be promoted into first grade. There was myself, Billy and Bob Wall."

GS : You were never thought about joining any other first division club?

KV : "At that time Granville was the club and when I was a kid they played at Clyde Oval which is now Clyde Engineering. And as kids we would go down there across the cow paddock and climb the fence, get in for nothing and watch them play. I thought if I play I have got to play for Granville. We got a few rude shocks when we did play because it wasn't all glory and we used to work five or six days a week and then go and train two nights a week and if they had a successful season you got a few bob at the end of the season and if they didn't you got nothing. They supplied you with shirt, shorts and socks. We bought our own boots and if we travelled away, which we did a lot, they paid the fare away and gave us five bob for dinner. We'd have to buy on the way there. So there was actually nothing in it even though it was only two bob or twenty cents to get in the gate. Just looking at my scrapbooks there were crowds of 6,000 and people laugh at me when I say that, but there were big crowds back in those days."

GS : As a first grade player were you also holding down a full-time job and trying to have a social life?

KV : "Because you're young and enthusiastic not only did we work five days a week but I played tennis a couple of nights a week and went dancing. I can remember we went to Newcastle and played soccer up there. I got back to Parramatta about nine o'clock and went up to the dance till eleven or half past. Later on it became hard when I got married. I had the opportunity where I worked then to work on Saturdays. All our soccer was played on a Saturday and it made it damn hard. I used to work on Saturday mornings just so I could get away and play soccer in the afternoon. It was hard because you need the money when you just got married and we were building a house. It was hard work because you were working 48 hours per week."

GS : What was it about the Granville team of that era that made it such a strong club?

KV : "My opinion is because we were all local lads and got encouraged by the local people. You'd go down to play your game and come out and all the local people were there. I grew up with the fellas I played with. I came out of the juniors with some of them and there was a good mateship between us from Granville, Guildford and Auburn. There was nobody getting any special money to play."

GS : So even your Socceroos like Eric Hulme, Alan Garside and Billy Henderson all got the same money as the regular team players?

KV : "Yes, and that's what helped a lot. I never worried in those days about the internal workings of the club but as far as I know nobody got any more than anybody else and we pulled our weight then. We all got stuck into it and if you got hurt it was bad luck. I had my fair share of injuries."

(continued over)

GS ***Any serious?***

KV "I finished up about three years getting a replacement knee put in. I didn't know it at the time but I had torn my cruciate ligament and I had gone all these years with it and since they put in a new knee it feels great. The knee was terrible but I've had a broken leg, collarbone, ribs and they reckon soccer was a sissy game (laughing)."

GS ***How did you find out about Socceroo selection?***

KV "One of the fellas with whom I used to work was on the committee of the association. I was just coming out of the factory and Alex Craig was waiting for me, put his hand up and shook my hand. I said what's that all about and he said you're in the Australian side next Saturday. So that's how I found out and when I got home there was a letter to say be there next Saturday at 2 o'clock in Newcastle."

GS ***No pre-match training?***

KV "That's right. There were one or two fellas from Queensland and you met them in the changerooms and you were then expected to get out there and perform against the top South African team with no run together. It was ridiculous. I played inside left with Ray Marshall on the left wing and Alan Garside at centre forward. In the South African test that was what stood us in good stead. The three of us got picked and South Africa had been thrashing Australia 6 or 8 nil and they beat us 4-1 but that repour had a lot to do with it."

GS ***What were the selectors thinking?***

KV "They tried out quite a few players in different tests and it didn't work out and I think they made the decision to put in a combination about four tests too late. They should have done it after the first test after they got thrashed. We all went up and came home together in Bills' car. On the way up we's rock a traffic jam. We were supposed to be there at 2 p.m. but we got there about twenty to three and we were supposed to kick off at three so there was a bit of panic. But even though we got beat on the way home we sang a few songs and told a few jokes and I can remember that test above everything else. There was only about three or four thousand which was a bit disappointing. When you got on the field the crowd disappears but they do tend to lift you with their voices and cheers when you're down and making a comeback. Individually you wouldn't know who was in the crowd even though my mum and dad travelled all the way up there too."

GS ***And that goal.***

KV "Oh yes because I scored the only Australian goal that day. The goalkeeper was six foot tall and I was lucky enough to get a bit of a break on the defence and I just dropped it in over his head."

GS ***A cause for great celebration?***

KV "Yeah but we never went on like they do now days. They slide all round the ground, kiss and hug one another. We knew we were there to do a job and if you scored, well, good. But you never went on with all the bull they do now."

GS ***You also played for Granville District against the visiting Chinese and FK Austria club side. What were they like?***

KV "I broke my leg against China. I took a shot and the bloke jammed down on my shin as came through with the kick. It was a foul tackle and that meant many weeks out. At that time was still single and I managed to get by but there was no compensation from the club, absolutely nothing. I was out for ten weeks and then back next year."

Ken Vairy continued his career until he retired from senior football in 1960. He stayed loyal to Granville during the federation-association split of 1957 but in 1959 he transferred to Auburn and then to Prague. It was his knee injury and his professional career that eventually led him to hang up his boots permanently. Kens' considerable footballing experience has been channelled over the years into the many junior teams he has coached in the city and the country. Amongst the top echelon of footballers of his era, he is justifiably still quite proud of his footballing career and that day where he so proudly wore the green and gold.

The 1999 Studs Up Victorian Premier League Preview

Every year it seems the Victorian Soccer Federation are on the verge of getting their act together, only for another disaster to be dropped on their plate. There have been all sorts of problems since the Premier League first came into being in 1992, with a number of clubs in financial distress and literally disappearing from the scene within two years. To illustrate the point how many non-Victorians could name the current status of Melbourne Zebras?

The situation had reached the stage where VSF Treasurer Vasko Stojcevk was moved to comment in the Annual Report.

"This positive result for VSF cash flow (in 1998) has enabled a benefit to be passed to clubs, by way of a revised schedule for the payment of membership and affiliation fees."

One could be forgiven for thinking that if clubs can't afford the affiliation fees then something is dreadfully wrong with either the clubs or the fees.

1999 really does promise to be a watershed year for the competition however with four teams relegated at the end of the season (two will be promoted) as the competition gears up for a genuine summer competition in 2000, closing the loophole on clubs who topped up their playing staff with Ericsson Cup players just as the state league was heading into the final straight. It promises to be a critical year for a number of clubs, with the proposed national second division gaining momentum, even if it becomes little more than a NSW/Victoria based competition.

Another significant change to the format sees the end of the reserves competition with an Under 21 comp taking its place. While three over age players are allowed (to allow injured senior players to recommence after recovering etc), many clubs are now struggling to justify having large squads which inevitably means a shake out of players. Currently only Premier League and State League First Division clubs are entitled to pay players, the remaining divisions operating (supposedly) on a strictly small-scale budget. It will be interesting to watch the standard of play in the lower divisions as the season progresses, although the feeling is that many of these players may be lost to the game if they are unable to gain financially.

The Premier League, to the disappointment of many, will not feature a finals series this season. It will be strictly first past the post, a format which will no doubt be warmly embraced by the traditionalists, but not the bean counters. The finals series, and the grand final in particular, have proved a great success since the league began seven years ago and one wonders how much interest will be retained at the top if one team bolts away by mid-season. At the other end it promises to be a fight to the death, literally. One bad season will see a traditionally strong club disappear into State League and if the slide can't be reversed immediately then they can kiss goodbye to a shot at the national second division. Then again, clubs have found plenty of ways to avoid relegation before

The do-it-yourself guide to Getting Around the VPL

(all car directions are from the City If travelling by PT it is HIGHLY recommended you contact ***The Met Transport Information Centre*** *on* ***131 638*** *to confirm the time of the last bus! Kick-off times can vary depending on the time of year Especially Easter If in doubt, or even if you're not, ring the club It's the only way to be sure.)*

1 Altona East - Paisley Park, Cnr Mills St & Ross Rd, Altona Nth (15km SW of GPO) Ph 9391-6154
Normal kick-off times Sun. 3pm
By Car Take West Gate Freeway to Millers Rd exit, turn left and head south approx 2 km to Mason St Turn left and progress about 700 metres, turn right into Mills St and head to the end
By Public Transport A 232 bus from Flinders St (City) will get you to the corner of Ross Rd and a simple five minute walk to the ground Getting back is harder, as no buses run after games so you'll need to befriend someone in the crowd or hike it to Newport train station, a healthy 3 or 4km stroll
Coach Peter Ollerton

2 Altona Magic - Paisley Park, Cnr Mills St & Ross Rd, Altona North Ph 9391-4017
Normal kick-off times Sat. 7pm, Sun. 3pm
By Car As for Altona East
By Public Transport As for Altona East
Coach Chris Taylor resigned after three matches

3 Bentleigh Greens - Kingston Heath Reserve, Ctr Dandenong Rd, Cheltenham Ph: 9585-2282
Normal kick-off times Sun 3pm
By Car Nepean Hwy to Centre Dandenong Rd ground is approx 3km along on the left hand side
By Public Transport Train to Highett Station then bus 826, 827 828 to the ground
Coach: Takis Svigos

4 Bulleen Inter Kings - Veruto Club, Bulleen Rd, Bulleen Ph: 9852-1511
Normal kick-off times Mon. 8.15pm
By Car Take the Eastern Freeway to Bulleen Rd (approx 10-12km from start of freeway at Hoddle St) turn left and the ground is about 1km up Bulleen Rd on the left hand side. Heaps of parking on site
By Public Transport Buses 301 305 308 from Market St (City) will get you down the freeway to Bulleen Rd 10 minute walk to ground. With matches on Monday nights getting home is nigh on impossible so it's best to befriend one of the locals
Coach: Gary Cole

5: Fawkner Blues - CB Smith Reserve, Jukes Rd, Fawkner Ph 9359-6938
Normal kick-off times Sun. 3pm
By Car Head north up Sydney Rd and turn right at Jukes Rd right into William St (at the roundabout), ground is on the left
By Public Transport Train to Gowrie station cross Sydney Rd at the lights (KFC on the corner) and head up Jukes Rd (15-20 minute walk from station, depending on KFC stopover)
Coach: Ken Murphy

6: Green Gully Cavaliers - Green Gully Reserve, Green Gully Rd, Keilor Ph 9336.6697
Normal kick-off times Mon. 8.15pm
By Car Take Tullamarine Freeway to Calder Hwy then continue up Calder Hwy approx 6-8 kms and take the Green Gully Rd exit Go through Old Calder Hwy intersection and the ground is 2km up the road on the right hand side
By Public Transport Train to St Albans then bus no 418 will get you to the ground With matches on Monday nights getting home is very tricky
Coach: Ian Dobson

7: Melbourne Raiders - Epping Soccer Stadium, Epping Rd, Epping (20km N of GPO) Ph: 9462-2439
Normal kick-off times Mon. 8.15pm
By Car Head north along High St through Reservoir, then a further 10km (High St becomes Epping Rd) Go past the Epping Aussie Rules ground and the soccer stadium is about 1.5km further on, on the left hand side You can't miss it
By Public Transport The one thing the builders didn't think of A good 3-4 km walk from Epping station Best option is to walk back to High St and grab a six-pack from the Epping Hotel for the trip
Coach Dusan Kalezic

8: Port Melbourne Sharks - Anderson Reserve, Plummer St, Port Melbourne (3-4 km SW of GPO) Ph: 9645-1408
Normal kick-off times Sun. 3pm
By Car From Spencer St head south over the Yarra down Clarendon St turn right into Normanby Rd (the big roundabout) which becomes Williamstown Rd 2.3kms ground on right hand side Adequate parking in surround streets
By Public Transport: Bus 235 or 236 from Flinders St
Coach: Peter Tsolakis

9: Preston Lions - Goodyear Stadium, Broadhurst Ave, Reservoir (12-14kms N of GPO) Ph 9462-4122
Normal kick-off times Sun 3-6pm
By Car Head north along either St Georges Rd or High St approx 9 km, turn left at Broadhurst Ave and follow to the end
By Public Transport Possible bus from Reservoir station (depending on kick off time) or take train to Ruthven and walk 2.5km along Broadhust Ave
Coach: Vlado Vanis

10 Saint Albans Saints - Churchill Reserve, Fox St, St Albans Ph: 9367-2001
Normal kick-off times Sun 3pm
By Car Follow Western Hwy (Ballarat Rd) to McIntyre Rd (HUGE intersection). Turn right and head north 4km, go over the freeway (McIntyre Rd becomes Sunshine Av at the freeway), travel a further 2km to Fox St on the left hand side. Ground is on right hand side. (Note: ground is only 1km SW of Green Gully Reserve. Check above for alternative route.)
By Public Transport A bit awkward... Train to St Albans, then bus 419 to Fox St, or 30 min walk via Esplande, Arthur St to Fox St
Coach: Steve Rastocic

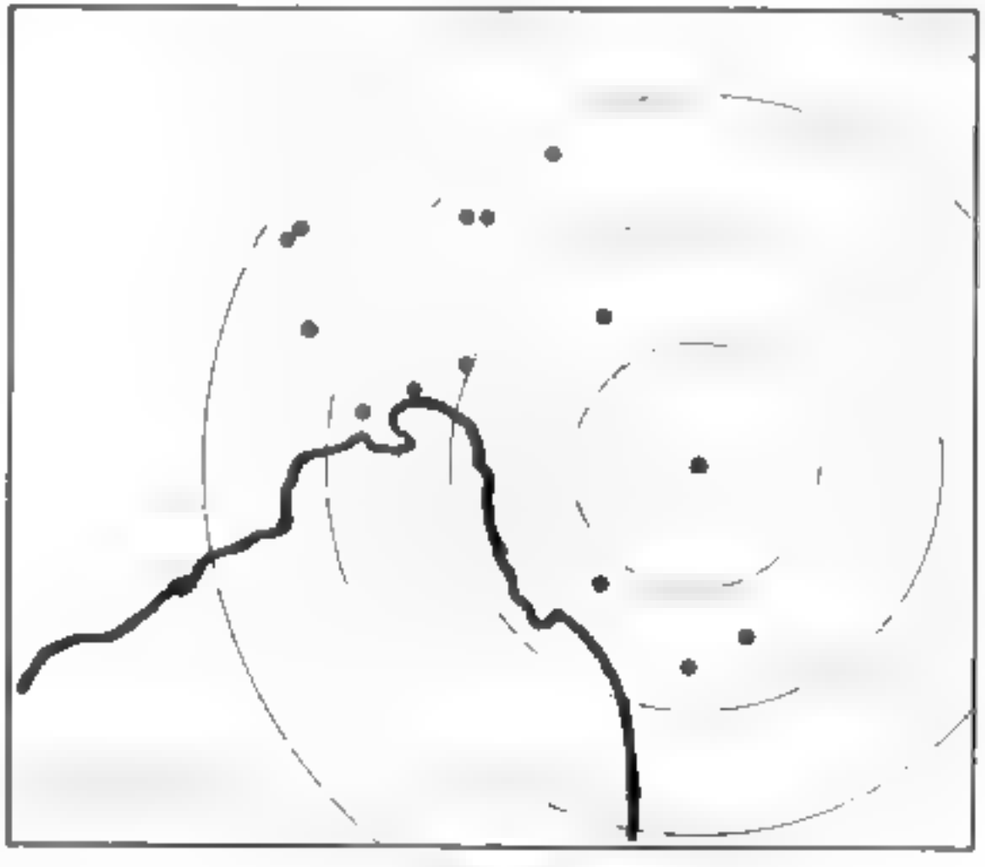
11 South Dandenong - George Andrews Reserve, Trawin St, South Dandenong (30km SE of GPO) Ph
Normal kick-off times Sat 3pm
By Car Probably best to take Nepean Hwy to Menlone, then left on to Lwr Dandenong Rd which becomes Cheltenham Rd. Turn right into Hammond Rd and drive approx 1km. Turn left at Kirkham Rd, second street on right is Trewin St
By Public Transport 15 minute walk from Dandenong Station. Head south from station, cross over Cheltenham rd and head down Hammond Rd approx 1km. Turn left at Kirkham Rd, second street on right is Trewin St
Coach: Fadil Muriqi

12 Springvale White Eagles - Serbian Sports Centre, Perry Rd, Keysbrough Ph: 9798-8213
Normal kick-off times Sun 3pm
By Car Nepean Hwy to Lwr Dandenong Rd (just past Warrigal Rd). Turn left and head east 3km to the HUGE roundabout at Boundary Rd. Turn right and head south 3km, turn left at Governor Rd 6.7kms to roundabout at Perry Rd. (Governor Rd becomes Hutton Rd at Springvale Rd). Turn right at Perry Rd and travel south(ish) 2kms to ground on right hand side
By Public Transport Take 857 bus from Dandenong or Carrum Stations, to the intersection of Banghome Rd, Worlsley Rd and Perry Rd. 5-10 minute walk. Getting home is the tricky bit
Coach: Milos Nasic

13: Sunshine Georgies - Chaplin Reserve, Anderson Rd, Sunshine (12km W of GPO) Ph: 9364-9372
Normal kick-off times Sun. 3pm
By Car Take Western Highway (Ballarat Rd) to Anderson Rd, turn left, head south 1km, ground on left and side
By Public Transport Train to Sunshine station, and ask someone to point you in the direction of Durham Rd (far too complex to explain here. ;). Short walk to Anderson Rd, turn right and another short walk across the railway intersection to the ground on the right hand side. Or if you're lazy you can catch a 456 bus from the start of Durham Rd
Coach: Anthony Cassar resigned after four matches – John Kanesoulis appointed caretaker

14: Westvale - Green Gully Reserve, Green Gully Rd, Keilor Ph: 9364-5134
Normal kick-off times Mon 8.15pm
By Car: See Green Gully
By Public Transport: See Green Gully
Coach

And don't forget, if you're ever in doubt about anything you can always try the VSF on (03) 9662-9666.



Carlton (✓), Newcastle (?) Auckland (✓?)

Sunday Feb 28 marked another important day in the history of Oz soccer. It was the day new Carlton part-owner Peter Jess was to face the media at Optus Oval to explain how the new team off the field was going to make a telling impact on the team on the field. The press conference was called for 3.45, allowing a good 75 minutes before Carlton kicked off against Sydney United.

As 3.45 ticked past it was revealed that Jess had been delayed in traffic. At 4.14 the M.C. finally got things under way, explaining that Jess wished to visit the home team's change rooms prior to the match and would therefore be brief in his comments before answering a brief question / answer session.

Thinking we would be belted with the king hits and the melonic would be left out, we were a bit underwhelmed with Jess' first speech. Without actually saying anything (too) wrong, he didn't exactly charm the assembled media, fans, bar staff and other interested on-lookers although he probably got off on the wrong foot when he announced that the reason for his tardiness was his failure to allow sufficient time to return from a surfing session (that's waves, not the Internet).

Anyway, the Blues will be playing their last three home games, including the potentially money spinning derby against South Melbourne (see 'Get the Book Out' at Olympic Park, although the decision on a permanent future home will be delayed for now. Yep, even the Docklands was mentioned (*Stop that gagging up the back!*). Foundation memberships will be honoured, a name change is definitely on the cards, probably the badge as well, although the navy strip will remain. Oh, and Jess has decided that FIFA would frown upon him being a part-owner and an accredited players agent.

It would be unfair to suggest that Jess' speech lacked sparkle, but if he gave a similar performance in the dressing room, it is little wonder Carlton were 0-2 down at half time.

Having watched the Blues lose to Sydney Utd, Jess will be comforted by the knowledge that the consortium of new owners will cash up the project to the tune of $5 million, which makes the 1.2 million payable to SocAus (for the buying-out of an existing club) seem like loose change.

Meanwhile, finance isn't so easy to come by in the country it seems. Rumours of new owners at Newcastle have been floating around for yonks now, but if the sticking point is the 1/2 million payable to SoccAus then you have to wonder how they are going to cash up the club. Without wishing to scare off any potential buyers of any club, Studs Up feels the need to point out that within a couple of years a competitive NSL club will be looking at an annual player salary bill of over $2 million. If the thought of paying a quarter of that for a licence fee is worrying the buyers then we suspect they may not be around for the long haul anyway.

Stop Press Editor Bruce Holloway was good enough to let us know that Kings spokesman Chris Turner is embroiled in a legal battle with NZ Soccer over the 1999 junior world cup. Turner believes he has a letter which gives him the rights to organize the tournament. Apparently he's lined up sponsors, but since feels he's been cut out of the loop with NZ S talking direct with them. NZS wants to have former CEO in charge of organizing the tournament.

Meanwhile, back in the NSL, Turner won't say how much Australia requires from the Kings but it's widely disputed over here to be $A500,000 fee up front, with guarantees they have access to a further $A500,000.

Turner: "*There is no problem for us in paying the fee (for a five year license) and we will be drawing up a document to sign with New Zealand Soccer as well. 'We have been desperate to do everything correctly and not jump the gun, and hopefully some major announcements (about backers and coaches) are not too far away.*"

THAT'S THE SPIRIT

BY ANTHONY FERGUSON

On Australia Day I ventured from Canberra to Sydney to witness the top of the table-ish encounter between the NSL's two biggest crowd-pullers, the Northern Spirit and Perth Glory. I was joined in my venture by the well-known ACT coaching personality, ex Studs Up reporter (see Issue 7) and former Meichester Rovers playmaker, Jumbo Trudgeon.

Along with nearly 18,000 other rampant supporters we really looked forward to the game, which was preceded by a special Oz Day round robin tournament between veterans teams representing Ireland, Scotland, England and Cornwall. Ireland won the comp and gladly collected their trophy from Spirit President Rama Pogarotto. (I noted that Kerry Chikarovski is also on the NS board, an indication that North Sydney is a rather well to do area). They won't be getting my support though, cos even one Tory on board is one too many for mine.

But I digress. The NS Oval is situated in a very pleasing setting and it was very noticeable that the large numbers of vocal supporters from both sides, resplendent in their respective colours, had no qualms in joining one another in a pre-match (and indeed post-match) drink. Suffice to say that both sets of supporters set a very good example for the rest of the league.

Incidentally, how do Perth draw such good support to away matches? (there were at least 500 here). Surely they can't all afford to travel interstate every fortnight. I'm guessing they have ex-pat supporters clubs in other states.

Whatever, the game commenced and both sets of supporters attempted to out-sing each other. The atmosphere remained friendly throughout despite the tension of the match, and the understandably hostile reception afforded the visitors by the vast home crowd.

The Spirit edged the game 1-0, but Perth were a little unlucky to have Naven sent off after just 25 minutes. Sure he lunged in on Mendez, who made the most of the challenge, but at that stage of the game I think a yellow card would have sufficed. Mendez himself was extremely fortunate that all three officials missed his vicious headlock on Perth's Halpin as the latter attempted to run off the ball into space late in the game.

Jumbo Trudgeon, ever the student of the game, pointed out a number of tactical factors that may otherwise have been obvious to my untrained (or rather, tactically disinterested) eye. The game was end-to-end with the Spirit understandably having the best of it. Perth defended and counter-attacked well, although Jumbo pointed out that coach Stange's tactic of having his defenders mark man-to-man rather than zonally was a little old fashioned. It might have worked in East Germany in 1979 but it's a little outmoded now. Having said that it almost came off anyway.

The Spirit meanwhile will need to examine their options up front if they are to make a serious challenge for the NSL crown. Whilst Slater ran his bollocks off, Clayton Zane at the moment is a complete waste of space and it was noticeable that the Spirit lacked the ability to vary their attacks, a factor that will be well exposed by the likes of South Melbourne and Sydney Utd if they're not careful.

Graham Arnold is enjoying a new lease of life at sweeper, making three superb last ditch interventions in this game, two with his feet and one with his head. The Spirit also have some exceptional young players coming through and they should be a force in the finals, with a few minor adjustments.

All in all, I hope both these sides make the play-offs as they are the future of the game and their supporters deserve success.

After the match Jumbo and I ventured into Kings Cross to witness another kind of game, but that's another story.

Aussies in Germany

From Andre Kruger

Most of the Australians were at home on holidays over the winter break in Germany Frank Juric was not alone Together with his teammate Igli Tare the Albanian International star from Dusseldorf he spent a few weeks Down Under Also, Zdnic was back in Australand to rest and recuperate for the second half of the German competition A few weeks prior to the break he played on snow for the first time in his life and scored the only goal

Some players try to use the break as a new start Sascha Nic the third keeper at Hamburg, is on the transfer list He is looking for a new club, after nearly two years in the town at the Erbe river

After Melbourne Daewoo South Korea Partizan Belgrade Vardar Skopje and HSV Nilic wanted a new Club where he can at least sit on the bench He said he want to move to Macedonia where he played 3 internationals At the moment he is still with his mates in a training camp in the south of Germany, skiing for the first time He may require some extra lessons He and Tony Yeboah from Ghana are late for dinner everyday once getting lost somewhere in the winter wonderland

Mark Silic got a contract in the second League with FC Guetersloh, currently lying sixteenth in the table The 26-year old player moved to his new club on a free transfer After 136 games and 11 goals for Melbourne Croatia/Knights and Collingwood in the National League, a short stint in Malaysia Italy and Victorian club St Albans he found his new home in Deutschland The ex Young Socceroo got a contract for a half year ending on 30 June 1999 The Club called it a "extra long training test", so if he can impress the coaching staff FCG will give him a three year contract The coach is sure that he will get in the first eleven in a short time The second Division is a good place for Australians and maybe a starting spot to get in the First Bundesliga

In the German Press they wrote that Sekulic (Mainz 05) and Silic are Stars in the Australian A National Team (?) So if they can't show their best in Germany, I can read those stories again about the standard of Soccer in Australia(!)

Another player who tried to find a club in Europe was Levent Osman A few months ago he made a trip to Turkey, where the 21 year-old Olyroo wanted a contract with First League Club Trabzonspor

"It's my big chance to get in the business for the big money When I see that the third choice 'keeper of Trabzonspor is coming with a BMW to the training session, it's hard to believe. In Australia the 'keepers cannot earn enough money to buy a watch," he said on the Turkish TV

The club from the Bosporus wants Osman to change his citizenship but UEFA said it's not possible because the parents of Levent are from the Greek part of Cyprus (Sport and Politics) so his Turkish adventure was over He moved to England for a trial with Sunderland but was not regarded highly enough by that club Osman is now back in Australia and plays for Gippsland Hopefully he can earn enough money to buy that watch

Aussies in England

Paul Orllark provides a round up of achievements outside the Premier League

Jan 11 - In Division One, Shaun Murphy continued his rich scoring form by scoring WBA's first of two in a 2-0 home win over Barnsley In Division Two, Tim Cahill and Lucas Neill were both involved for Millwall as they won 3-1 at Wigan Athletic In Division Three, Simon Mottio was again in goal for Hartlepool United as they lost 4-1 at the league leaders, Cardiff City Despite the result the Aussie played well and made several crucial saves

Jan 18 - In Division One, Crystal Palace got a 2-2 draw at home to Stockport County Craig Moore played a full game whilst Nicky Rizzo was subbed after 75mins Craig Foster was left out after an undecided display at Bolton the previous week Andy Pelleerson, who has had his one month loan spell turned into a three month loan spell, played in goal for Portsmouth as they won 1-0 at home to Huddersfield Town. In Division Two, Tim Cahill scored and Lucas Neill also played as Millwall won 1-0 at struggling Wycombe Wanderers. In non-league it was FA Trophy day again The Trophy is the FA Cup style tournament which is for non league clubs only and takes the clubs from all levels of the non-league game The winner play at Wembley live on Sunday 16th May Of the Aussies involved in the trophy Scott Guyatt scored the only goal of the game as his struggling Southport side won 1-0 at Unibond Premier side, Leigh RMI who nearly knocked Fulham out of the FA Cup this season Jon Brady's Rushden & Diamonds side who lost 3-1 at Leeds in the FA Cup on Wednesday had their game at Ryman Premier side Slough Town called off due to the persistent rain throughout England last week

Jan 25 - Lucas Neill and Tim Cahill both played full games as Millwall lost 2-1 a home to Burnley who didn't feature Mark Robertson David Oldfield was used as a sub on 84mins in Stoke's 3-3 home draw with struggling Colchester United Simon Mottio has returned to the Hartlepool reserves so as to make way for the ill again Norway Under 21 keeper Morten Hollund And there is some good news for Aussies in the Football Conference As from next season the format between the division and Nationwide Division Three will be three up/three down which will help sides like Rushden & Diamonds immensely

Feb 1 - Kevin Muscat played the full 90mins for Wolves as they won 2-1 at struggling Stockport County Steve Conca, who hasn't even made the bench for the past couple of weeks, looks to have become surplus to new manager Colin Lee's plans Cahill and Neill both played as Millwall drew 3-3 a home in their derby with Gillingham Cahill scored on 59mins but was sent off on 85mins for committing serious foul play In the Ryman Premier Division Vince Matassa's Basingstoke Town lost 2-0 at struggling Dulwich Hamlet Town have now fallen into the bottom half of the table although they do have games in hand on their nearest rivals

Feb 8 - In Division One Jason Kearton's Crewe surrendered a valuable 2-0 lead with 72mins on the clock to draw 2-2 at Barnsley Kearton was blamed for the second goal in which he was left looking rather silly Kevin Muscat played in Wolves' 1-1 draw at home to strugglers Oxford United but Conca voiced his disappointment this week at being unable to get into the squad In Division Two, David Seal made a rare appearance for Northampton Town as they continued their bad form drawing 0-0 at home to Blackpool And it was the fourth round of the FA Trophy the winners of their games having just 4 games to go until Wembley Whilst I was at unknown Whyteleafe watching my Kingstonian side win 3-0 Jon Brady's Rushden side was struggling against Woking in front of near 3,000 Brady was dropped from the squad because of his indifferent form in last week's game with Northwich Victoria, and Diamonds drew 0-0 the replay to be played this Tuesday at Rushden's Nene Park Also, former Brisbane Strikers player Gary Blackford, who has been with Ryman Premier side Dagenham & Redbridge this season was on the bench as the Daggers beat Conference side Telford United 4-0 In the Ryman Premier Division, Vince Matassa played in goal as Basingstoke Town drew 1-1 at home to Boreham Wood to remain in the bottom half of the table

Dear Studs Up -
P O Box 53, Oakleigh South 3167

It should be pointed out that Chris Kunz forwarded this to us back on January 20, a good two weeks before Les Murray did one of his infamous U-turns in a more recent issue of ABSW...

In the past many have questioned that the broad-based club was the way to go. They have pointed at the relatively mediocre crowds attracted in Canberra, Brisbane, Wollongong and more recently in Newcastle. However, none of these clubs have ever had big money behind them, leading them to:

* lose the truly talented players they developed
* struggle to perform at a high level
* fail to invest in the professional promotion of the game

In contrast, the traditional 'ethnic origin' clubs have survived on a steady stream of financial support from their committed followers and were better able to retain the young players (often of the same ethnic background).

Sadly, demographics are against the ethnic clubs. I remember watching Prague, Hakoah and 'my' club St George Budapest in the sixties. The Czechs, Jews and Hungarians (respectively) literally - like my father - have died out, or are elderly. A large number of the 'Eastern European' migrants of the late 40s and 50s were well educated and the pull to remain together and mix at a game on the weekend was far less than those who by appearance and language could not feel comfortable in the wider community.

There is inevitably a drift in the 2nd generation migrant away from the culture and traditions of the parent. Factors such as level of education, intermarriage (and appearance, fluency in English again - and some would add surname?) increasing impact on their need or desire to remain in 'an ethnic ghetto'.

I have often reflected on the fact that had I taken my mother's surname – Thompson - her ancestors were of English, Welsh and Irish origin who migrated here between 1830 and 1870 - I would have had a much easier life – as I look exactly like my great grandfather who was born in Sydney in 1844 of English parents! Instead, I have been regarded as a 'wog' and not just because I loved the round ball game!!

So where is all this leading, I hear you ask?

The point is that even Greek, Croatian and Italian clubs are subject to these 'rules'. South Melbourne couldn't fill Olympic Park's 20,000 capacity for last year's Grand Final, despite hundreds of thousands of people of Greek origin living in Melbourne. Of course, if their 'own' community does not want to support them, as Sydney Utd has learnt, nobody else will.

Brisbane, on the other hand was able to pack Suncorp with over 40,000 two seasons ago. Even Les Urge (Les Murray as he now calls himself) has finally (and probably reluctantly) accepted that the future of the game lies with the broad-based clubs. Unfortunately he does not yet appreciate that most promising Australian-Croatian kids of any real talent will now surface beyond the Croatian apron (see ABSW).

Perth Glory proved that:
Money + Marketing + Broad-based club = crowd success and viability.

Spirit proved that this was transportable to the east coast and that there was a message behind Brisbane's GF crowd.

Newcastle KB Utd held the NSL crowd record (set 1979) till Spirit stole it in the opening game. The 'Castle' will rise again with a big cash injection.

The public image of the game is being changed by the success of Glory and Spirit - it is now less a 'wog' game, but many will try to (and have) brand this growth as purely British-based. Anything to stifle the game's popularity and render it 'un-Australian'. That is why we have to reinforce our credentials as representing all, not a migrant subgroup - and not appear too 'British' in song and soccer shirt wearing.

At last the money now knows where to go and the opportunities are surfacing - and it is clear that involvement with an EC club can have rich rewards. Even the blind are beginning to see the truth!

That is why I am optimistic. My only concern is that the transformation of the EC may be blocked or slowed by the clubs who need to be kicked out. Time will tell....

Dear Studs Up.....
Or Get The Boots Out!!!!!

The whole fiasco at the Spirit v Wolves match was 99% beat-up, 1% fact.

Standing with a few of the boys were Agent X and I. A guy was going to be ejected for allegedly using the word 'testicles' during some singing. Two police officers took exception to the fact (M/F) and grabbed him with the view to throwing him out. In the ensuing grabbing, etc he broke free and charged around the back of the hill between the grassy knowl and the fence. He then ran around the corner making a dash towards the southern end.

A few other police then ran to chase him and cornered him near halfway. As is often the case with large crowds all the Spirit fans ran after the cops seeking a better look at the arrest. When they grabbed this character who was resisting arrest another guy (dressed in motorcycle leathers and boots) pulled a can of mace and ran a good 200m to join the event. In the process of making the arrest he sprayed not only the guy in question but also 8 or so nearby spectators with mace.

The report that the woman police officer was assaulted is baloney. She tripped and fell down the slope in the commotion of making the arrest. The other 2 lads were apparently arrested for aiding and abetting the 'get away' of the first guy and for swearing at the police in the process.

S&K Security service who also supplied security at the event were hopeless. They intimidated Spirit fans throughout the second half while the police stood watching. They continually asked the fans not to sign anything that was remotely vulgar.

In one word it was a disgrace but the media beat it up to make it appear like another Prahran Park fiasco.
Agent 2232

Did that *REALLY* happen?!?!?!?

JANUARY

2 - SocAus advises that the 466th patron at the Marconi Stadium to see the hosts take on Wollongong will be the Ericsson Cup's 500,000th patron to view National League Soccer this season. Sydney Olympic and the visiting South Korean under 23 side play out a fascinating 3-3 draw in which three penalties are awarded and the Koreans give a preview performance of their dying swan routine....
3 - South Melbourne defeat Sydney Untied 1-0 but lose Goran Lozanovski for a couple of months with a foot injury.
11 - Alan Davidson is appointed coach of Pahang in Malaysia.
17 - The Ericsson Cup reaches the halfway mark with South Melbourne three points clear at the top. Only one point separates Carlton (4th) and Northern Spirit (8th)
19 - Vid Horvat resigns as coach of Melbourne Knights. His replacement will be Somers St legend Josip Biskic.
21 - Carlton announces the sale of Andy Vlahos to Greek 'giants' Panathinaikos for an undisclosed sum, although rumours suggest the figure is almost seven digits long, which should leave plenty of spare change for the Archie Thompson deal.
24 - Round 16 of the Ericsson Cup is completed, and there isn't a home win amongst the seven matches. In fact if Canberra had have sneaked all three points (instead of one) in Gippsland there would have been seven away wins!
28 - Gippsland Falcons hold a special members meeting in an effort to work out how to solve the club's chronic financial problems. Of the club's 700 members, less a quarter bother to attend, yet enough sub-committees are formed to suggest the required fund-raising will shortly be underway. With a budget shortfall of $150,000 for this season alone, it will be an uphill job.
31 - Newcastle Breakers do it again! A 1-0 win in Perth makes it three victories in WA in successive years. Which wouldn't be so remarkable except they've only managed one other away win over the past three seasons!

FEBRUARY

1 - More funny business surrounding the Mark(o) Viduka transfer with Croatia Zagreb suggesting the Knights' part of the fee could be settled by playing a few friendlies. Naturally the Knights ring their solicitors....
2 - The Gippsland cash crisis is eased slightly with the announcement of a new sponsor, Iveco Tricks. Time to start playing the players....
3 - Carlton puts in a bid for Clayton Zane, and it seems Northern Spirit are ready to do business until Zane claims he's not interested.
5 - Danish superclub Brondby offer Sydney Olympic $1.5 million for Olyroo Jason Culina.
7 - Those of you who had thought you'd seen the last of Mike Gibson, think again. The (almost) 36 year-old 'keeper dons the gloves for Sydney United and produces some vintage form to hold Adelaide City to a 1-1 draw.
8 - The acrimonious Archie Thompson transfer saga is finally resolved with Carlton agreeing to pay Gippsland $40,000 - the highest fee paid by a Melbourne club.

14 - Sydney Olympic defeat Sydney United 2-1 and in the process Northern Spirit win the Sydney Challenge. Unfortunately for Spirit, the original idea of the four competing clubs putting up some prize money doesn't come to fruition. More bad news the next day, as the Daily Telegraph font page screams 'SOCCER FANS BRAWL - Police injured as 400 fight at Sydney match'. Anyone who was there knows that ain't quite true, and SocAus give their legal mates a call...
15 - Northern Spirit get their way and the ABC will now not be showing the Spirit/Ad City match live, allowing the match to be rescheduled in the regular Friday night timeslot.
17 - A piece of history goes missing.... Damian Mori's goal in 3.69 seconds a few years back is wiped from the record books as Uruguayan Ricardo Olivera scores after 2.5 seconds. Now that FIFA have amended the rulebook and goals can be scored direct from the kick-off, expect to see numerous attempts in years to come.
19 - Sanfrecce Hiroshima defeat West Adelaide in the first of three friendlies against South Oz opposition.
21 - Archie Thompson makes a spectacular home debut for Carlton by scoring four goals in his team's 5-2 win over Brisbane. A big trip home for Newcastle players, no doubt, after winning 1-0 at Gippsland. It was their first win in Victoria for about four years by our reckoning. Sanfrecce come from behind to defeat South Australia 2-1 in a friendly played at Hindmarsh in very warm conditions.
22 - The Fourth World Congress of Science and Football kicks off at the UTS in Sydney. Covering all football codes over the five day talkfest, most soccer fans' attention is focused on the words of the visiting Roy Hodgson. Tom Pondeljak flies out to Belgium for a two week trial with Ghent.
23 - Sanfrecce continue on their winning ways with a 1-0 win over Adelaide City with Aurelio Vidmar hitting the post against his former club.
24 - Bad news for Carlton as Mark Atkinson is diagnosed as having ruptured the medial ligament in his left knee. He will miss the rest of the season.
28 - Soccer Australia hold their AGM and Victorian Soccer Federation chairman Joe Brondolino is elected to the board, replacing Don Di Fabrizio who chose not to seek re-election. In one other change, Tasmanian John Barker replaces Queenslander Wally Dann as the club's representative.

Did they REALLY say that?
"Referees are part and parcel of the game and should be treated as such. They are human beings like anyone else." - Rale Rasic, 1977

Look out for....

Ericsson Cup Highlights

Mar 20 - Marconi v Perth Glory
Mar 21 - South Melbourne v Adelaide City

Mar 26 - Northern Spirit v South Melbourne
Mar 26 - Perth Glory v Sydney Olympic

Apr 4 - Adelaide Sharks v Adelaide City
Apr 4 - Sydney Olympic v Carlton

BULLETIN BOARD

Sydney Radio Coverage....
Sunday nights 98.5FM on Sydney at 10pm - NSL round-up with an emphasis on Northern Spirit happenings around 10.30pm.

Tuesday nights 10pm- 11pm they have been rewarded with another hour of soccer.

The reception reaches Wollongong and Newcastle and to Mt Victoria and they are going to boost it to the equivalent of a normal comercial FM station in the next few months to make it even better.

Adelaide Radio Coverage....
Sat. 11am-1pm 92.7FM 5RTI Soccer Show (90% Oz material)
Sun. 9am-11am 88.5FM COAST FM Talking Soccer (85-90% Oz)
Sun. 5.30pm-10.30pm 1539AM TABRADIO Soccer Show (95% Oz) - includes live coverage of games from Hindmarsh
Sun. 7.45pm-9.30pm 92.7FM 5RTI match-of-the-day live EC coverage from Hindmarsh + 5RTI provide full coverage of all Adelaide City away games (except when live on ABC TV) + Radio Dioloros provide full coverage of all Adelaide Sharks games (in Greek).
5RTI also do live broadcast of the SASF Premier League match of the day, complete with regular updates from all other Premier League and State League games!

Perth Radio Coverage.....
100FM Radio Fremantle continue to cover all Glory games home and away, and they usually have a special guest or two in the box as well.

Melbourne Radio Coverage
The Four Diegos Soccer Show - Stereo 97.4 FM - Saturday 10am - 12 midday

The Farr Post - Issue 29, March 1999 Out Now!!
This month we hear about the Toowoomba United Raiders and their baptism of fire and catch part 2 of TFP's interview with Frank Farina.
So to keep up with all the Queensland news just send $2:00 to Tony at:
Sportsprint, P O Box 478, Bulimba, Qld 4171

Catalogue coverage
After a long gap, **Ewen Anderson** is about ready to put his **10th Football Programme Catalogue** on to the market. There are over 8,000 different progs from about 350 clubs and 30 countries as diverse as Iceland and New Zealand. The 'manual' also features a selection of books and magazines and a wide selection of fanzines for the addicted.
Ewen can be contacted via
P O Box 5155, Alexandra Hills, QLD 4161
Oh, and the back page of the catalogue promotes SU and TFP! So do the right thing....

Trevor Moore 58 Tristan St, Carindale Qld 4152
has just produced his latest catalogue which, although containing 'bugger all' new programmes, lists quite a few new books that the anorake amongst you will probably enjoy. Fire off a quick note for details.

Mark Burgess is another chap who had produced a catalogue of collectibles, with a couple of hundred soccer items included. He has business cards made up, so he must be at least semi-serious and he can be contacted at:
The Collector's Sports Books
PO Box 198 Earlwood NSW 2206.

Press Coverage
We gave Inside Soccer enough rope to hang themselves a couple of months ago so it's only fair that we let you know that their publication is quite a good read these days, with the list of contributors (of varying quality) growing by the week. At $2.50, it is definitely streets ahead (at the moment...) in terms of Oz coverage than that other weekly going around.

Sitter - Issue 33 now available.
Get a bird's (*Kiwi*) eye view of the Oceanea and N.Z. scene, from the Auikland Kings to the Confederations Cup and all the regular grouse stuff!!!!
Interested parties (and there should be plenty of them) should send a $5 Aussie note to **Sitter! - 11 Thames St, Hamilton, New Zealand.**

Coming REAL soon.....

The Un official Beginners Guide to the

History of the Australian National Soccer League

Chock full of stats, tables and tidbits, from 1977 to present day, we give you all that we can give in this concise guide to the NSL.

All the finalists (cups as well!!!), as well as the leading goal kickers in the one handy booklet makes this a must for all good collectors!!!!

Available soon through Studs Up or from Santo at:

Melbourne Sports Books

9 Elizabeth Street Melbourne (upstairs)

Phone (03) 96211211